



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000

AFZF-CG

16 December 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR Major Subordinate Commanders

SUBJECT: Christmas/New Year Holiday Safety Message

1. The upcoming holidays are some of the most celebrated holidays throughout the world because they truly exemplify the spirit of giving. Many of our Soldiers and families are practicing giving by making daily sacrifices for our Nation while supporting peace throughout the world. Our efforts have brought goodwill to some of the world's more troubled regions, which is known by many and a secret to none. During this season of giving, we should be proud of our accomplishments.

2. Although I recently published a Winter Holiday Season safety memorandum outlining accident/suicide prevention measures, I want to reiterate some of the measures as we approach the last holiday period of the year. Traditionally, many of us will travel long distances during the holidays. My major concerns are fatigue, speeding, not wearing seat belts, motorcycle protective gear, and excessive use of alcohol, all of which can be avoided.

3. Safety hazard awareness is a perishable commodity, but it is also the key to accident prevention. Leaders must conduct safety briefings that include highway safety, seatbelt use, fatigue avoidance, dangers of drinking and driving, and winter weather precautions. The various programs of our Tie One On Campaign can enhance unit holiday safety efforts. Additionally, as the temperatures drop, remind Soldiers of the risks and remedies associated with home heating systems, fireplaces, gas stoves, and space heaters. Using correct heater fuel and changing the batteries in smoke detectors can prevent home fires and save lives.

4. Another important area I want leaders to aggressively focus on is suicide prevention. I expect leaders to fully understand and practice the "ABCs" of suicide prevention – Awareness, Becoming Involved, and Compassion. Most attempted suicides are preceded by telltale signs and hints that caring and observing individuals can and should react to.

5. I am very proud of the accomplishments our Soldiers, family members, and civilians have achieved throughout the year. I extend my personal wishes to you and your families for a safe and blessed holiday season. May God bless all of you, our deployed Soldiers, and may God bless America.

THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding